

County Trends



Grand

October 2003

A Local Economic Perspective

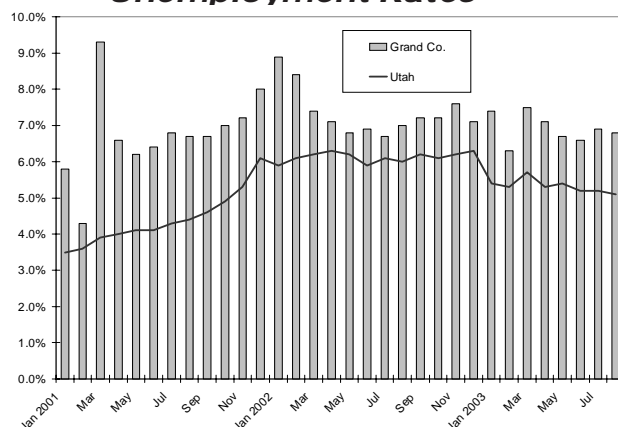
Jobs Expand Early in 2003.

Grand County's year-over nonfarm employment for the first quarter 2003 rose 2.2 percent, a marked improvement over the 0.4 percent gain in first quarter of 2002. A jump in lodging, retail trade, real estate, and government employment boosted economic activity. The seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate has been slowly trending lower, and in August 2003 was 6.8 percent, slightly below the 7.0 percent reported in August of 2002.

Jobs become Scarce

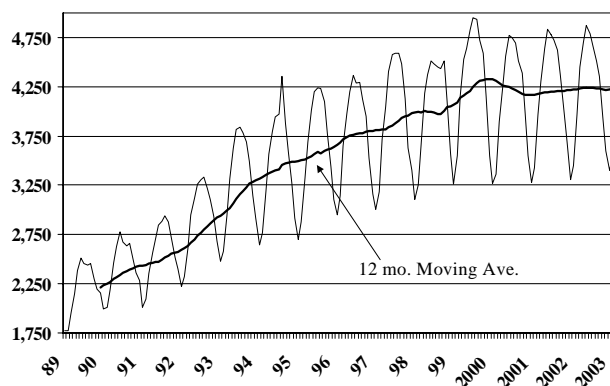
Grand County enjoyed job growth during the first three months of 2003. Nearly all of the growth was in the service-production industries. Employment at lodging establishments rose as did that for retail trade. Real estate development and management also increased. The information industry added jobs in publishing, motion pictures, and broadcasting. Professional business and repair services also showed improvement. Federal government jobs rose related to land management, while local government added a few jobs in social services. On the down side was a slight decline in education and health-service positions.

Seasonally Adjusted GrandCounty Unemployment Rates



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.

Monthly Nonfarm Employment in Grand County, 1989-2003

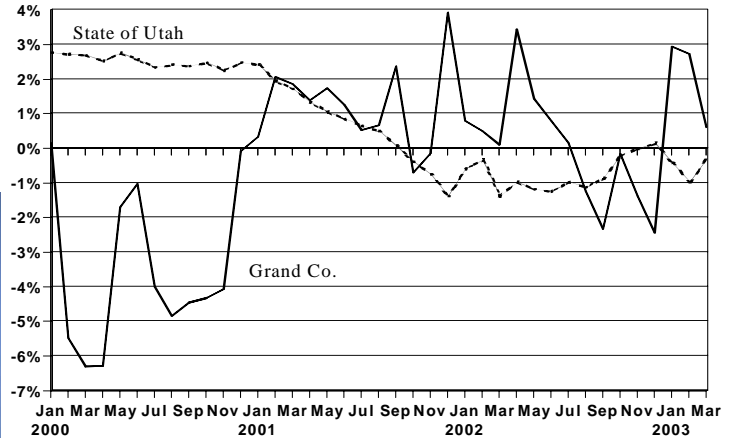


Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.





Year-Over Change in Grand County Employment



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.

To the Point

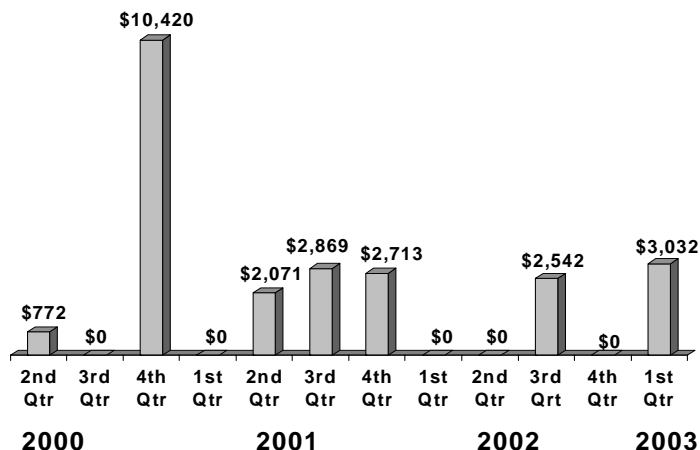
Grand County enjoyed a good start to 2003 as jobs increased 2.2 percent. The trade industry and lodging industry showed early growth, which is good news heading into the peak travel season. Gains in professional business services, real estate, and information also are positive signs that growth is more diverse and widespread in Grand County's economy.

Among goods-production industries, year-over data for the first quarter of 2003 showed jobs losses. However, mining managed to add some jobs. Employment losses were reported in manufacturing and construction. Construction jobs were down for residential and commercial building and heavy construction projects. Special trade construction (electricians, carpenters, plumbers, etc.) work added positions. Manufacturing lost several jobs in wood products and printing services. Mining eked out a small gain as mineral mining expanded. Mining also reported a few more jobs related to gas exploration.

Construction Rebounds

Permits for authorized construction value were \$3.0 million in the first quarter of 2003, a much better showing than in 2002 when no permit activity was reported. The value of residential construction was \$1.7 million, as 32 new dwelling units were authorized. An additional \$1.1 million in nonresidential building also was authorized, most for a dude ranch. The value of renovations was also positive.

Grand County Total Construction Permit Valuation



(Thousands of dollars)

Source: Utah Bureau of Economic & Business Research.



Sales are Down - or are they?

Year-over gross taxable sales for the first quarter of 2003 fell 6 percent. Most of the decline is due to fewer sales in retail trade and lodging. The question is why the sharp drop? In 2002, after the 9-11 attack, more travel occurred closer to home and Grand County aggressively courted in-state and neighboring-state visits. Apparently, the strategy worked. However, it has not been sustained in 2003. It may be that 2002 is an aberration, as first quarter 2003 figures are actually slightly higher than first quarter 2001, indicating that activity is on par with that reported in 2001, when things were "normal."

Outlook for 2003

The solid gains reported in the first quarter of 2003 bode well for Grand County. A good start heading into the season associated with travel should help sustain moderate job growth during this year.

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Quick Facts

August 2003

Unemployment Rate

Grand County	6.8%
Utah	5.1%
U.S.	6.1%

Mar. 2002 Change from Previous Year

Job Growth

Grand County	0.6%
Utah	-0.3%
U.S.	-0.3%

4th Qtr 2002 Change from Previous Year

Construction Values

Grand County	na
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Sales

Grand County	-6.2%
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Source: Utah Dept of Workforce Services,
Bureau of Labor Statistics,
Utah Tax Commission,
Bureau of Econ & Business Research.

For more economic information about Grand County see:
<http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/Regions/County.asp>

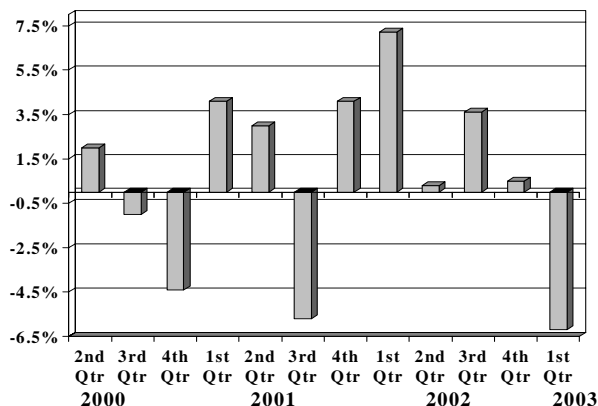
State of Utah

Utah Department of Workforce Services

140 East 300 South
PO Box 45249
Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0249

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Year-Over Change in Grand County Gross Taxable Sales



Source: Utah Tax Commission.

The mission of the Utah Department of Workforce Services is to provide quality, accessible, and comprehensive employment-related and supportive services responsive to the needs of employers, job seekers, and the community.



03-13EG-1003

Equal Opportunity Employment Program

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Call (801) 526-9240. Individuals with speech and/or hearing impairments may call the state relay at 1-800-346-4128

What's Up? 4

- Moab received \$2.1 million from the Utah Permanent Community Impact Fund Board to renovate the former Grand Middle School. The renovated facility will house the municipal offices, law enforcement, and other agencies.
- Utah State University (USU) received a \$500,000 grant from the Utah Permanent Community Impact Fund Board to purchase or build a university facility in Moab. The grant will also allow USU to provide an array of associate's and bachelor's degree programs in Moab.

For more economic events, see:

<http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/Regions/eastern/grand/grandee.pdf>

